

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a package, comprising:

scanning a two-dimensional bar code that is associated with the package and presented by an intended receiver of the package, wherein the two-dimensional bar code is electronically transmitted to ~~an~~ the intended receiver of the package and the two-dimensional bar code is encoded with previously provided biometric information of the intended receiver;

decoding the two-dimensional bar code to obtain the receiver's previously provided biometric information;

receiving current biometric information from the receiver and comparing the current biometric information to the previously provided biometric information; and

providing the package to the receiver if the receiver's current biometric information is equivalent to the receiver's previously provided biometric information.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiver's previously provided biometric information and the receiver's current biometric information include data related to at least one of the receiver's fingerprint, the receiver's handprint, the receiver's voice print, the receiver's facial features, and the receiver's signature.

3. – 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein receiving the receiver's current biometric information is accomplished by:

affixing the receiver's signature to a signature bar code; and

scanning the signature bar code.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional bar code utilizes the PDF 417 symbology.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for delivering goods, comprising:

a ~~notifier~~ notification unit for notifying a user electronically that a package has arrived at a predetermined location;

a scanner for scanning a two-dimensional bar code that is associated with the package, wherein the two-dimensional bar code is electronically transmitted to an intended receiver of the package and encodes previously provided biometric information relating to the user's identification;

a decoder for decoding the user's previously provided biometric information from the two-dimensional bar code;

a collector for collecting the user's current biometric information;

a comparator for comparing the user's current biometric information and the previously provided biometric information, the package being provided to the user when the user's current biometric information matches the previously provided biometric information.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

a ~~presenter~~ presenting unit for presenting the package for visual inspection by the user prior to providing the package to the user.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the notifier operates via at least one of a cell phone, a PDA, and a two-way pager.

12. – 13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the user's previously provided biometric information and the user's current biometric information include data related to at least one of the user's fingerprint, the user's handprint, the user's voiceprint, the user's facial features, and the user's signature.

15. – 18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim ~~40~~ 9, wherein the two-dimensional bar code utilizes the PDF 417 symbology.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~establishing a service for~~ delivering identification data to a user of a package delivery system, comprising:

receiving biometric information and recipient information from a user; and

encoding the biometric information into a two-dimensional bar code, the two-dimensional bar code capable of being electronically transmitted and decoded to recover at least the user's previously provided biometric information; ~~and~~

receiving a notification that the user has ordered a package; and

in response to the ~~user ordering a package~~ notification, electronically transmitting the two-dimensional bar code to the user.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

notifying the user electronically that the package has arrived at a location that corresponds with the recipient information, wherein the notification includes the two-dimensional bar code encoding the user's biometric information.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the notification that the user has ordered a package is received via the Internet. ~~step of the user ordering a package is accomplished via the Internet.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the biometric information includes data related to at least one of the user's facial features, the user's voiceprint, the user's fingerprint, the user's signature, and the user's handprint.

24. – 27. (Cancelled).

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein scanning the two-dimensional bar code further comprises:

scanning a printed copy of the electronically transmitted two-dimensional bar code.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the printed copy of the two-dimensional bar code includes a receipt electronically transmitted to the user to confirm arrival of the package at its intended destination.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

scanning a second two-dimensional bar code that has been associated with the package, wherein the second two-dimensional bar code is a digital stamp applied to the package and encoded with sender information.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the sender information includes at least one of a credit card account number, sender biometric data, destination address, sender address, sender name, digital signature, and meter information.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional bar code is scanned using a portable scanner.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the scanner is a portable scanner.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the scanner is operable for scanning a printed copy of the two-dimensional bar code.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a provider for providing the package to the user.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein receiving data from the user includes receiving data via the Internet.